



sobaus.org | SOBA@nmma.org

STATES ORGANIZATION FOR
BOATING ACCESS

200 East Randolph Drive, Suite 5100, Chicago, IL 60601

T. 312.946.6283 | F. 312.946.0388



Inventory of boating access needs assessments,
strategic plans and existing list of access points

Presented by:

The States Organization for Boating Access

January 2005

Table of Contents

Introduction and Background	1
Methods and approach	1
Summary and Returns	2
Accessing the information.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	2
Results	4
Do you have an Inventory of Public Boat Ramps in your state?	4
Have you completed a Needs Assessment?.....	5
Have you completed a Strategic Plan?	6
Appendix I.....	7
Appendix II.....	10

Introduction and Background

The States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) is an organization devoted to the acquisition, development and administration of public boating facilities nationwide. SOBA was formed and held its first conference in 1986 in Detroit, Michigan. Today, SOBA's membership spans the 50 states and 5 territories. As a voice supporting the need for recreational boating facilities nationwide, SOBA strives to provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences that will foster private, interstate, federal-state, and state-local cooperation and coordination in boating facility design, construction and financing.

As a National voice SOBA's mission reflects the need to maintain and develop the public's legal right to recreational boating and boating access to the public waters of this nation. SOBA works as a liaison between federal, state and local agencies in the interests of its members and the general public. In 2003 one of the steps SOBA took to move forward in these efforts was to develop and reach consensus on a strategic plan. SOBA began a concerted effort to implement this strategic initiatives plan in 2004.

Initially, one of the strategic initiatives that SOBA and its membership thought was vital was an assessment of current and future needs regarding boating and fishing access. To make progress on this important priority, SOBA began by creating this inventory of existing needs assessments, strategic plans and state boat ramp inventories that have already been done by other groups and agencies. This summary of public access in SOBA member states is the result. The following index is a quick and useful way for SOBA members to access the information that already exists.

From this data gathering exercise, SOBA has prepared this summary. It is the first report of its kind, documenting and summarizing what already exists at the state level. SOBA's intent and expectation is to use this information to design and deliver a truly nationwide needs assessment that builds from what the states are already doing. Eventually, SOBA would like to provide tools and services to its member states to help them complete needs assessments, strategic boating access plans, and inventories of boating access points.

Methods and approach

The information for the inventory was collected by sending each state voting member (for contact information see Appendix I) a letter and one page survey. The letter and survey form are provided in Appendix II. The survey, which was sent out in August, asked the following questions:

- (1) Does your state have an online or hardcopy inventory of public boat ramps?
- (2) Has your state completed a strategic plan to increase boating access?
- (3) Has your state completed a needs assessment that measures current and future access needs?

Summary and Returns

The following is a summary of responses by 98 % of the membership (50 out of 51 SOBA members responded).

- 78 % of the respondents have an inventory of public boat ramps.
- 36 % of the respondents have a needs assessment.
- 34 % of the respondents have a strategic plan.

Detailed results for each question are provided starting on page 4. For each question, this report provides the number of replies, sorted by yes/no and whether hardcopy or electronic copies of the state-specific inventory/assessment/plan are available. This report also lists the online location for the inventory/assessment/plan that are available on the web.

Accessing the information

SOBA has collected the inventories, needs assessments and strategic plans in electronic format or hard copy. The electronic and web based documents are available via links from the SOBA website (www.sobaus.org). To access hardcopies of the individual states inventory of boat ramps, needs assessment or strategic plan, the state should be contacted directly.

Acknowledgements

SOBA would like to recognize the 2004 SOBA Board of Directors for supporting and encouraging this work. Board members include:

President, Larry Killien
Vice President, Julie McQuade
Treasurer, Gary Iles
Immediate Past President, Larry Rider
Members-at-Large,
Conference Chair, Lacy Nichols, Jr.
Clean Vessel Act Chair, Rocky Browder
Outreach/Technology/Education Chair, Bill Boik
Design and Development Chair, Terry Boyd
2004 Conference Representative, Seth Brandenberger

SOBA would also like to thank the following states for their cooperation and participation:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

For more information about SOBA and its programming, please visit our web site at www.sobaus.org or email info@sobaus.org. An electronic copy of this report is available online at www.sobaus.org.

SOBA has taken all prudent steps to ensure the quality of these data, including contact information. We cannot, however, be responsible for inaccurate or incorrect information that was reported to SOBA. For changes or corrections, please email info@sobaus.org.

This report should be cited as follows: SOBA, 2005: Inventory of boating access assessments, strategic plans and existing lists of access points. States Organization for Boating Access: Warren, RI

Detailed Results

Do you have an Inventory of Public Boat Ramps in your state?

Yes: 39

No: 11

#: 78 yes

Copies on file at SOBA

Hard: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and West Virginia.

Electronic: Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Dakota , and Wyoming

In Process or unavailable: Alabama, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Vermont

Copies available on the Web

Connecticut: www.dep.state.ct.us/rec/boating
Hawaii: www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dbor
Idaho: www.boatidaho.org
Indiana: www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/fish/fishng/county3/html
Kansas: www.kdwp.state.ks.us
Maine: www.state.me.us/doc/parks/programs/boating/sitelist.html
Maryland: www.mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/fish/state2.html
Massachusetts: www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab
Michigan: www.mcgi.state.mi.us/MRBIS
Missouri: www.mdc.state.mo.us/atlas/searchfacility.cgi
New Jersey: www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/delaces.pdf
New York: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmf/fish/foe4cb11.html
North Dakota: www.state.nd.us/gnf/boating
Ohio: www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft/pdfs/18pf.pdf
Oregon: www.boatoregon.com
Pennsylvania: www.fish.state.pa.us
Rhode Island: www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/bnatres/fishwild/boatlnch.htm
South Carolina: www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/img/boatfacilities.pdf
Texas: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/rivers/access.htm
Virginia: www.dgif.virginia.gov
Washington: www.boat.iac.wa.gov
West Virginia: www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp

Have you completed a Needs Assessment?

Yes: 13

No: 37

#: 26 yes

Copies on file at SOBA

Hard: New York, West Virginia

Electronic: Hawaii and North Carolina

Other, in process: Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina (hard copy but 10 years old) and Vermont,

Copies available on the Web

Ohio: www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft/plan/default.htm

Washington: www.iac.wa.gov/iac/docs.htm

Have you completed a Strategic Plan?

Yes: 18
No: 33
%: 34 yes

Copies on file at SOBA

Hard: Kansas and New York
Electronic: Michigan and Hawaii
Unavailable/in process: Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia

Copies available on the Web:

Arkansas: www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/stratplan/Images/SF_StratPlan.pdf
Maine: www.state.me.us/doc/parks/programs/boating/strategicplan.html
Ohio: www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft/plan/default.htm
Pennsylvania: www.fish.state.pa.us
Rhode Island: www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/bnatres/fishwild/boatlnch.htm

Appendix I

	Organization	Contact		Phone Number	E-mail
AL	Alabama Game and Fish Division	Thompson	Daniel P.	334-242-3882	dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us
AK	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Donek	Tom	907-465-6190	tom_donek@fishgame.state.ak.us
AZ	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Koloszar	Mariann	602-789-3481	mkoloszar@gf.state.az.us
AR	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	Rider	Larry	877-967-7577	lrider@agfc.state.ar.us
CA	California Department of Boating and Waterways	Watanabe	Steve	916-263-8147	swatanabe@dbw.ca.gov
CA	California Wildlife Conservation Board	Wright	Al	916-445-8448	awright@dfg.ca.gov
CO	Colorado Dept of Natural Resources	Hughes	Eric	303-297-1192	eric.hughes@state.co.us
CT	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	Mariani	Eleanor	860-434-8638	eleanor.mariani@po.state.ct.us
DE	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environer	Nichols Jr.	Lacy	302-739-3441	lacy.nicholas@state.de.us
FL	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Madkour	Mahmoud	850-851-0629	mahmoud.madkour@MyFWC.com
GA	Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources	Ager	Leslie, M	478-825-6152	lager@cstel.net
HI	Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources	Yim	Kevin	808-578-1966	kevin.h.yim@hawaii.gov
ID	Idaho Department of Natural Resources	Murphey	Jill	208-334-4180x226 (208-	jmurphey@idpr.state.id.us
IL	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Appleman	Bob	217-782-7481	bappleman@dnrmail.state.il.us
IN	Indiana Department of Natural Resources	Leverman	Ted	260-426-2009	tleverman@dnr.in.gov
IA	Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources	Konrad	Martin	515-281-6976	martin.konrad@dnr.state.ia.us
KA	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks	Robins	Ross	620-672-5911	rossr@wp.state.ks.us
KY	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Hough	Mike	502-564-7109 x 301	mike.hough@ky.gov
LA	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	McElroy	Mark	225-765-2336	mmcelroy@wlf.louisiana.gov
ME	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands	Powell	George	207-287-3821	george.powell@maine.gov
MD	Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources	Gaudette	Robert	(410) 260-8462	bgaudette@dnr.state.nd.us
MA	Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife	Sheppard	Jack	617-727-1843	Jack.Sheppard@state.ma.us
MI	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Boik	Bill	517-335-4828	boikw@michigan.gov
MN	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Markell	Mike	651-296-6413	mike.markell@dnr.state.mn.us

Organization		Contact		Phone Number	E-mail
MS	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fish and Parks	Hubbard	Walter	601-432-2208	bubbah@mdwfp.state.ms.us
MO	Missouri Department of Conservation	McPherson	John	573-522-4115 x 3598	mcphj@mdc.state.mo.us
MT	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Brandenberger	Seth	406-841-4008	sbrandenberger@state.mt.us
NE	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Carney	James	402-471-5547	jcarney@ngpc.state.ne.us
NV	Nevada Division of Wildlife	Fraga	Mark	775-688-1564	mfraga@ndow.org
NH	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	Tichko	Richard	603-271-2224	rtichko@wildlife.state.nh.us
NJ	New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife	Nelson	Paulette	609-984-0839	paulette.nelson@dep.state.nj.us
NM	New Mexico Department of Fish and Game	Wilkenson	Peter	505-476-8055	pwilkinson@state.nm.us
NC	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	Myers	Gordon	919-715-3155x276	gordon.myers@ncwildlife.org
ND	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	Frohlic	Bob	701-328-6346	bfrohlic@state.nd.us
NY	NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation	Woltmann	Ed	518-402-8893	efwoltman@gw.dec.state.ny.us
OH	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	McQuade	Julie	614-265-6443	julie.mcquade@dnr.state.oh.us
OK	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	Namminga	Harold	405-521-4651	hnamminga@odwc.state.ok.us
OR	Oregon State Marine Board	Rhodehamel	Ronald	503-373-1405 x236	ronald.rodehamel@state.or.us
PA	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	Mulfinger	Dick	814-359-5157	dickmulfinger@state.pa.us>
PR	Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources Planning Area	Nieves	Erasto	787-724-8774x2200	
RI	Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife	Lapisky	Mike	401-789-3094	lapiskym@dem.state.ri.us
SC	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	Burnette	Chris	803-734-4009	burnette@dnr.sc.gov
SD	South Dakota Fish, Game and Parks	Lees	Michael	605-773-4675	michael.lees@state.sd.us
TN	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Sumners	Barry	615-781-6599	barry.sumners@state.tn.us
TX	Texas Parks and Wildlife	Hogsett	Tim	512-912-7124	tim.hogsett@pwd.state.tx.us
UT	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Cowdell	Robert	801-538-4813	nrdwr.bcowdell@email.state.ut.us
VT	Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife	Guilmette	John	802-241-3458	john.guilmette@state.vt.us
VA	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	Kesler	Steve	804-739-4689	skesler@dgif.state.va.us
VA	Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Travelstead	Jack	757-247-2247	jtravelstead@mrc.state.va.us
WV	W. Virginia Division of Natural Resources	Kincer	Dennis	304-558-2771	dkincer@dnr.state.wv.us
WA	Washington Interagency Commission for Outdoor Recreation	Eckert Johnson	Laura	360-902-3000	lauraj@iac.wa.gov
WI	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Lewis	Steven	608-267-7469	steven.lewis@dnr.state.wi.us
WY	Wyoming Game and Fish Development	Edwards	Bobby	307-777-4592	bobby.edwards@wgf.state.wy.us

Appendix II

Dear SOBA Member:

The States Organization for Boating Access has identified through its Board of Directors and the membership that building an assessment of current and future needs for boating and fishing access, and an inventory of existing access facilities is a national priority. This information does not currently exist on a national scale. Having this information is becoming increasingly important for promoting the work that has been done and describing how much work, and associated funding, is still required.

To make progress on this important priority, SOBA will create an inventory of existing needs assessments and state boat ramp inventories that have already been done by other groups and agencies. The index will be a quick and useful way for SOBA members to access the information that already exists. From this data gathering exercise, SOBA will prepare a summary of needs assessment reports and methods. This will provide a basis for a truly nationwide needs assessment.

Attached to this letter, please find a one page survey that collects the following information: (1) does your state have an online or hardcopy inventory of public boat ramps; (2) has your state completed a strategic plan to increase boating access; (3) has your state completed a needs assessment that measures current and future access needs; (4) what was the amount of state appropriations spent on Boating Access Facilities last fiscal year. The survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. Once completed, mail to 50 Water Street, Warren, RI, 02885 in the self-addressed stamp enveloped provided, or fax to 401.247.0074. Please return by Friday, August 6th.

By the end of August, SOBA hopes to have compiled this information into four databases, one for each inventory. These databases will be available to the SOBA membership and be posted on SOBA's web site (sobaus.org).

Thank You!

Name:

Address: _____

Phone #:

Email: _____

1. Do you have an **inventory** of public boat ramps in your state?

No

Yes (last updated _____)

If inventory report is currently posted online, please indicate web address below:

http:// _____

If inventory report is NOT currently posted online, please email a copy to fkineon@lighthousecg.com, or send a hardcopy to address below.

2. Have you completed a **needs assessment** that measures current and future boating and fishing access needs in your State?

No

Yes (last updated _____)

If inventory report is currently posted online, please indicate web address below:

http:// _____

If inventory report is NOT currently posted online, please email a copy to fkineon@lighthousecg.com, or send a hardcopy to address below.

3. Have you completed a **strategic plan** that defines how boating and fishing access will be maintained and increased in your state?

No

Yes (last updated _____)

If inventory report is currently posted online, please indicate web address below:

http:// _____

If inventory report is NOT currently posted online, please email a copy to fkineon@lighthousecg.com, or send a hardcopy to address below.

Please fax or mail completed questionnaire by **Friday, September 10th**. Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire!

